

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/648,107

Examiner

Christopher J. Novosad

Applicant(s)

O'BRIEN ET AL.

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on April 22, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to show or suggest a loader linkage comprising an attachment tilt linkage that controls the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom, the attachment tilt linkage comprising a leveling link having a first end that is pivotally coupled to the loader frame by a leveling link pivot and a second end, a bell crank having a drive end and a driven end, the bell crank being pivotally coupled to the second end of the leveling link by a bell crank pivot located between the drive end and the driven end, a linear actuator extending between the loader frame and the driven end of the bell crank for pivoting the bell crank about the bell crank pivot, an attachment link being pivotally coupled to the drive end of the bell crank and extending to the attachment for controlling the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom as specifically called for in the claimed combination in claim 1.

The prior art of record also fails to show or suggest a work vehicle for performing a work operation, the work vehicle comprising an attachment tilt linkage that controls the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom, the attachment tilt linkage comprises a leveling link having a first end that is pivotally coupled to the mast by a leveling link pivot and a second end, a bell crank having a drive end and a driven end, the bell crank is pivotally coupled to the second end of the leveling link by a bell crank pivot located between the drive end and the driven end, a linear actuator extends between the mast and the driven end of the bell crank for pivoting the bell crank about the bell crank pivot, an attachment link being pivotally coupled to the drive end of the bell crank and extending to the attachment for controlling the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom as specifically called for in the claimed combination in claim 10.

The prior art of record further fails to show or suggest a loader linkage comprising an attachment tilt linkage that controls the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom, the attachment tilt linkage comprising a floating bell crank and a leveling link, the floating bell crank being pivotally coupled to the loader frame via the leveling link independent of the boom, the floating bell crank having a drive end and a driven end, a linear actuator that extends between the loader frame and the driven end of the floating bell crank for pivoting the floating bell crank, an attachment link being pivotally coupled to the drive end of the floating bell crank and extending to the attachment for controlling the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom as specifically called for in the claimed combination in claim 16.

The prior art of record further fails to show or suggest a work vehicle comprising an attachment tilt linkage that controls the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom, the attachment tilt linkage comprising a floating bell crank and a leveling link, the floating bell crank being pivotally coupled to the loader frame via the leveling link independent of the boom, the floating bell crank having a drive end and a driven end, a linear actuator extending between the loader frame and the driven end of the floating bell crank for pivoting the floating bell crank, an attachment link being pivotally coupled to the drive end of the floating bell crank and extending to the attachment for controlling the angular position of the attachment relative to the boom as specifically called for in the claimed combination in claim 19.

The prior art of record further fails to show or suggest a loader linkage comprising a guide link that extends between the middle portion of the boom and the attachment link as specifically called for in the claimed combination in claim 22.

Art Unit: 3671

The prior art of record further fails to show or suggest a work vehicle for performing a work operation, the work vehicle comprising a guide link that extends between the middle portion of the boom and the attachment link as specifically called for in the claimed combination in claim 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher J. Novosad whose telephone number is 571-272-6993. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 5:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached at 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3671

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Christopher J. Novosad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3671

May 16, 2005